



Launch Yourself as a Teacher of English as a Second Language

Not sure what to do when you first arrive at post? Haven't figured out your next career step? Waiting for an Embassy position to open? Consider teaching English. It is a great way to get out, interact with people from the host country, perhaps earn some money, and feel useful. It's also a great portable career option. Below you will find a list of free resources available and tips to quickly get you started on the right foot.

Resources from the U.S. Government

As a part of America's effort to develop peoples understanding of American culture, the U.S. government supports a variety of English language initiatives.

- The **Office of English Language Programs (OELP)**, implemented by the State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, is responsible for English teaching support activities outside of the U.S. All of their resources can be found on their site including their free publication, the *English Teaching Forum* by and for practicing English Teachers and their comprehensive, annotated An Essential Bibliography for English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics <http://exchanges.state.gov/englishteaching/resources-et.html>

OELP has also sponsored the creation of the video-based training series for English language instructors: *Shaping the Way We Teach English*. These are available for viewing at <http://oelp.uoregon.edu/shaping.html>

Twenty Regional English Language Officers (RELO) around the world support the OELP's program activities. If you happen to be located in a country with a RELO, find out about their activities. See if you can work or volunteer for them to get experience. Click here for a list of their locations: <http://exchanges.state.gov/englishteaching/reg-el-officers.html>

- No OELP office near you? Check to see if your **Public Diplomacy section** has an American Corner or an American Center where English classes are conducted. You may find work there. They may also have copies of publications on America that you can use for your lessons and copies of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.
- In Latin America there also several **bi-national centers**. These independent, autonomous institutions receive support from the USG to promote English language learning and cultural understanding and can also be a good place to volunteer or seek a paid teaching position.
- Contact the **Peace Corps** office in your country. See if you can use their library. Most volunteers teach English at one point or another and the library usually has a great set of locally-appropriate materials

- **Voice of American (VOA)** also has great English teaching materials including on-line activities and lessons, articles and podcasts in basic English and lesson plans for ESL teachers.
www.voanews.com
- The **Library of Congress** has content on American culture and ideas for lessons under their Teacher section. www.loc.gov

Other Resources:

- www.ispeakuspeak.com hires English speakers to teach online to clients around the world.
- If you want to teach about the American states –write to the state tourism offices. They will send you maps and brochures.
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) is an organization with some free resources, an online community and information on how to get certified <http://www.tesol.org>
- The Internet TESL Journal has free jokes, conversation questions and activities <http://iteslj.org/>
- See these sites for game ideas: www.englishclub.com/esl-games/index and <http://www.teflgames.com/games.html>
- For sites with lots of activity ideas for teachers visit www.eslcafe.com and www.eslmania.com

Get Your Certificate

- Getting certified to teach ESL will give you more job opportunities. There are many reputable ESL program available online. The State Department has a historical relationship with George Mason's FAST TRAIN Program. Its English as a Second Language Education program is designed for teachers who want to work in PK-12 schools internationally. The program is a hybrid program which combines online coursework in the Fall and Spring semesters with intensive summer classes offered face-to-face. <http://fasttrain.gmu.edu/>

Tips

- Make people feel comfortable.
- Figure out why your students want to learn English. Make it relevant for what they want – especially for adults.
- Determine their education level. (Can they read? Do they know the parts of speech?)
- Ensure everyone gets a chance to try and practice.
- Play lots of games. Make it fun.
- Create a theme for each week with a vocabulary list.
- Do something with your class. Cook, visit a museum, go to a farm.
- Have them write a daily journal presenting what they did the day prior.
- Start a youth club for ESL teens.
- Start a group with people in your apartment building.
- Check out companies in your city that teach business English to executives at their offices or start your own business. The hourly rate is much higher for these services.
- If you enjoy teaching English, consider getting certified online or in-country. This will help you increase your income.

These resources have been taken from FSI's English Teaching Seminar: An Employment Option (MQ107). The Family Liaison Office provides information as a public service. Links DO NOT imply any endorsement of accuracy or quality of services.